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California Polytechnic State University

April 15, 2002

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Palm Corp. Donates Hand-Held Computers To University Center for Teacher Education

"Computing on the go" is coming to students in Cal Poly's University Center for Teacher Education (UCTE), thanks to a donation of 28 Palm hand-held computers (PDAs or personal digital assistants).

The computers, from Palm Corp., will allow students to access course content, complete and turn in class assignments, and communicate with fellow students and teachers via e-mail anytime, whether on campus or off.

Students will also use Palm PDA technology to create lesson plans. Recently published results of a study incorporating hand-held technology in K-12 education found that it enables more-effective teaching and learning, according to Barbara Means, director of the Stanford Research Institute's International's Center for Technology in Learning in Menlo Park.

Teachers responding to the study indicated that the hand-held technology helped in

- Facilitating outdoor inquiry-learning experiences;
- Managing the classroom;
- Promoting student collaboration and interaction, and
- Improving students' organizational skills.

The computers, valued at \$3,200 will become the property of the university's UCTE's Instructional Technology Lab, being developed in conjunction with the university's Information Technology Services department. The lab will give students access to, and experience with, the latest technology so that they can meet the tougher new state standards required for teachers.

"Palm's goal is to provide cost-effective tools that streamline educators' work so they can focus on teaching and research and offer students computing access within their overall curriculum," said Mike Lorion, vice president of education at Palm.

Equipment donated by the Portsmouth Corp. will connect the Palm hand-held computers to Cal Poly's network, allowing the students to transmit data electronically.

"Portsmouth is excited to partner with Palm to enable Cal Poly students to enhance their educational experience," said Ryan Adamson, vice president for sales and marketing.

In addition, several companies have contributed educational software for UCTE's instructional lab, giving students access to the latest classroom computer applications.

The materials were donated by Tom Snyder Productions, Knowledge Adventure, Riverdeep, Sunburst Software, Inspiration Software, and Visions Technology in Education. AlphaSmart Inc. donated a portable keyboard and software.

Sheldon Smith and Marsha Lifter, members of the UCTE Strategy Team and adjunct professors in educational technology, were instrumental in acquiring these gifts.

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